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Midget Redwoods

DISCOVERED IN CALIFORNIA

by W. Warren Anderson

May, 1953 Price 10 Cents

It seems incredible that ANY form of tree should have escaped attention in much-trampled California, especially a form of the famous Redwoods! Yet here are FIVE "MINISEQUOIAS" 1/10 the size of the GIANTS -- and many natural HYBRIDS!

During the winter of 1952-53, I found over 2,000 of these DWARFS, growing in Marin Co., California, only 15 miles from San Francisco! One was brought to me from near Fort Bragg and others have been reported in Del Norte Co. near the Oregon border.

My first MIDGET REDWOOD was SIX FEET tall, loaded with seed-bearing cones, had 49 ANNUAL RINGS! The giant Coast Redwood bears cones at 30 to 35 years of age, when it is 50 to 75 feet tall, or more.

Resembling the Chinese Glyptostrobus in dense, light-green foliage, these Midgets also have similar white wood with light tan annual rings. Rarely, a tiny red core reaches a few inches up into the Midget trunk, from the RED roots.

Seedlings grow an UNDERGROUND ROOT-BURL, which weighs about 1/4 pound on a ten-year-old Midget. Each Midget seems to live only a century, but the BURL stays ALIVE, producing crop after crop of Midget trees, perhaps for centuries. OLD root-burls grow "runners", as strawberries do. They are underground stems of white wood, identical with the Midget trunks. Several Midgets grow up from each runner, making a dense clump of tiny trees from ONE underground BURL. Only the BIG, ANCIENT root-burls grow runners--young burls merely send up sprouts.

The Midgets thrive on dry, windy ridges of rock and adobe, or in damp alluvial valleys essential to the Coast Redwoods. They appear more hardy, and far more prolific from both seeds and sprouts, than the Coast Redwood.



ABOVE

W. Warren Anderson ---Midget Redwoods 20 to 50 years old. From ROOT-BURL centuries old, that has probably grown MANY crops of the Midget Redwoods,

AT LEFT

Valkyrie Anderson, age 7, with Midget Redwood 30 in. tall, 8 years old, which has nine seed-bearing cones. The Coast Redwood bears seed at 35 yrs. of age, 60 to 75 ft. tall.



AT LEFT

The five varieties of Midget Redwood so far discovered--in gallon cans.

1. Spire
2. Weeper
3. Compacta
4. Russet
5. Silver-Back

FIVE NEW NATURAL DWARF MIDGET REDWOODS

AVAILABLE ONLY FROM RARE PLANT CLUB

The SPIRE

Solitary, this Midget grows bushy at the base, with spire slender and erect. If crowded, it is more spire-like. The small leaves are light-green, linear like flattened needles, arranged either in complete spiral arrangement, or in V-shaped fronds. Leaves have either a gray-green back or a faint silver. Older bark grayish-brown. Younger shoots have a brownish scaly bark overlaying green, each scale terminating in a linear leaflet.

Root-sprouts may be cut off below ground and rooted easily as cuttings--or allowed to grow to make a dense clump or hedge. Growing this tree as a spire is best, as the Compacta variety is far better where dense growth is desired. Ideal for a tub tree, Christmas tree or for dwarfing.



The COMPACTA

Foliage and bark like the SPIRE, but the trunk forks, with many more branches--grows dense and bushy with rounded shape. Removing the tip or leader buds, makes it more bushy. Root-sprouts may be allowed to grow to make a dense clump of tiny trees crowded close--or for a hedge.

May be developed as a rounded shrub, by nipping off leader buds at tips. Makes a beautiful lawn specimen, a perfect tub tree, or a very dense living Christmas Tree. Makes a superb DWARF, either as a solitary, or as a clump of miniatures, for a larger dish.

Dense clumps of Compacta in nature, hint that this Midget should make one of the finest of evergreen hedges, with little root-spread trouble.



The RUSSET

Foliage light-green tinted with reddish-tan --making a uniquely beautiful russet miniature accent tree. We have seen nothing like it, in the thousands of native and imported plants grown in California.

Bushy when young. When older, tends to drop its lower limbs and carry a rounded crown atop a slender trunk -- especially when crowded or in a DRY location. Appears to be the ONLY drouth-resistant tree in the Redwood group--grows in rocky adobe soil, wind, and hot, dry spots. Yet those we have here, have retained their russet color, even during our 4 FEET of winter rains!

A unique lawn specimen, tub-tree or ideal for dwarfing--stands hot- dry conditions.



The WEEPER

Another unique accent tree. Has slender trunk with long branches trailing like vines. Will be very scarce until we succeed in growing them from seed, cuttings or by grafting.

Foliage dark green, soft -- like smaller Coast Redwood leaves--often with back of light green or light silver.

Wants more water, better soil, and part shade. May be grown as a dense, weeping bush or trailing shrub --by removing the leader tip, which forces profuse sprouts from the underground burl. In either tree or shrub form a graceful, distinctive beauty as a lawn specimen, a tub tree, or a potted dwarf. Scarce.



The SILVER-BACK

A dark green pyramid, almost as wide at the base as it is tall, that sits on the ground with trunk hardly visible. Leaves are a miniature of the Coast Redwood--with a moderate or heavy silver back, flashing silver when the wind blows! Young trees show a light silver--it seems to grow more brilliant with age.

Likes water, good soil, part shade and grows a little taller than the other Midgets probably 40 feet or more.

Fine for a lawn tree, especially when partly shaded by larger trees. A very attractive tub tree or living Christmas Tree--also excellent for dwarfing. Very scarce--few on hand.

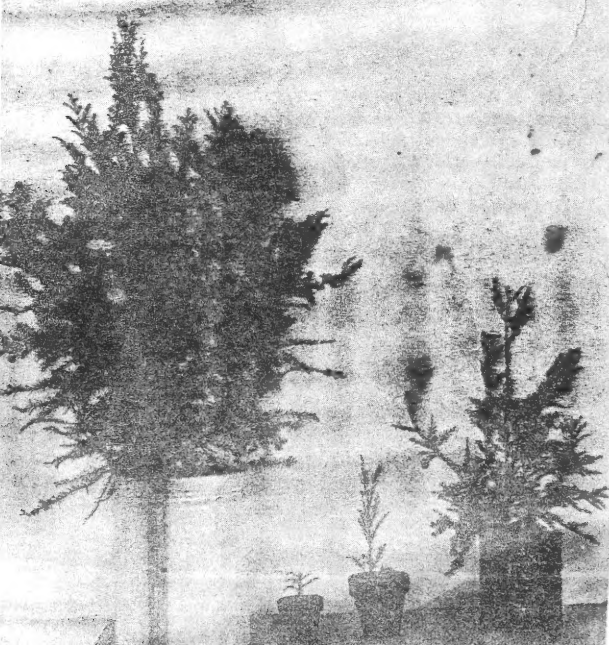
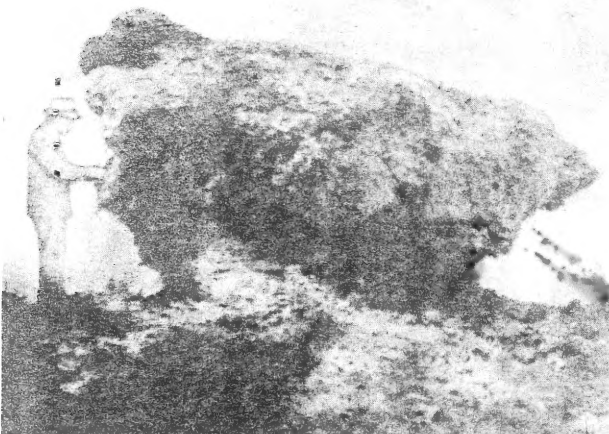
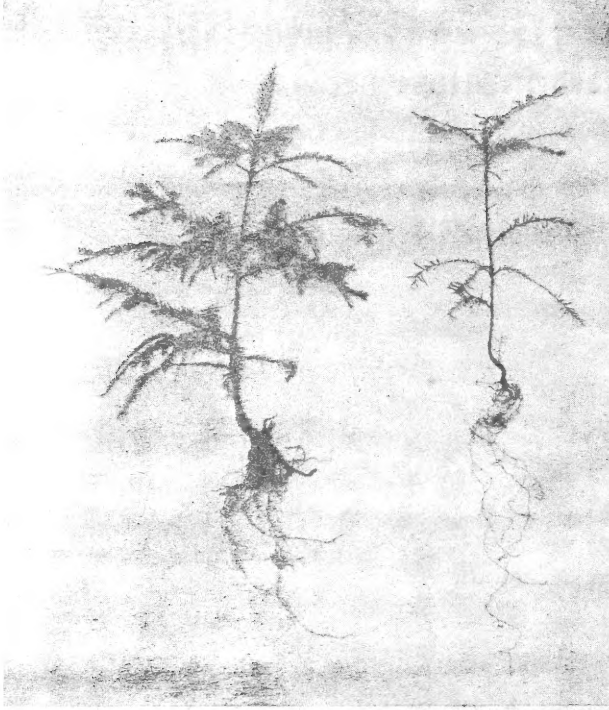


FIVE HYBRID REDWOODS

Botanists have long said that the "Coast Redwood" is a triploid HYBRID, with 3 unknown parents. I have found FIVE of these apparent hybrids, each of which seems to be a blend of one type of Midget with the "original" Coast Redwood.

All five of these "HYBRIDS" seem to be medium-sized trees, probably will grow only to 50 or 100 feet in 50 years -- will probably NEVER become 300 feet tall, nor cover 2 acres with their roots--as the BIG Redwoods do.





Uses for MIDGET REDWOODS

We do NOT know enough yet about these Midget Redwoods to GUARANTEE their behavior. They promise many advantages.

1. They seem MORE HARDY than the Coast Redwood--to drouth, heat, wind, cold and poor soil. We rate them for ZONE 6--with care when young, perhaps ZONE 5.
2. Probably about 35 feet maximum height, they should be ideal for small lots.
3. They are excellent tub trees here---growing very slowly. For cold climates, the tub could be moved indoors in the coldest weather ---- a beautiful LIVING Christmas Tree, usable many years!
4. For DWARFING, they should survive dry indoor air, be EASY to keep dwarfed.
5. ANY of the five Midgets may be grown in either tree or shrub form. They may be planted and pruned as a hedge, probably NOT growing to over 5 or 6 ft. in 50 years. Less root-spread than many hedge shrubs.

Uses for HYBRID REDWOODS

On residential lots, the five hybrids should be better than the BIG Redwoods, as they will NOT grow so large. They resemble the five types of Midgets, but are larger in every way. You can have 2 or 3 different HYBRIDS in the same space that ONE big Redwood would require.

AT TOP

Seedling of Midget Redwood with ROOT-BURL. Seedling of Coast Redwood has no root-burl.

CENTER

Shows size of largest ROOT-BURL ever reported in California -- 8x12 ft. -- weight 20,000 lbs. Brought \$5,000.00--was made into veneered furniture. RED not brown like Coast Redwood TRUNK-BURLS.

LOWER LEFT

The sizes of BOTH Midget Redwoods and their HYBRIDS, which are now ready: 3 in. pot; 4 in. pot; gal. can; 5 gal. can.

SIZES AND PRICES

R. P. C. Members order NOW-Few on hand SPECIFY MIDGETS or HYBRIDS in order. LIMIT 5 ONLY, per customer.

SIZE	HEIGHT	ONE	THREE	FIVE
3 in. pot	2-6 in.	\$4.75	\$13.50	\$20.00
4 in. pot	6-12 in.	5.75	16.50	25.00
Gal. can	12-18 in.	7.75	18.00	30.00

TERMS: CASH WITH ORDER-SHIPPED EXP. COLLECT

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